Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System - Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment

Introduction

In January 2003, the U.S. Army validated a requirement to enhance force protection for coalition forces engaged in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. These forces were experiencing indirect fires in their area of responsibility (AOR). These fires adversely impacted each unit's ability to provide adequate security for airfields and forward operating bases. The units required an enhanced capability to detect and identify threat movement at sufficient distances to enhance tactical decision-making. The Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) Product Office identified a low-cost materiel solution to fill this operational need. The first Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) systems were fielded in March 2003.

Currently, twenty-two JLENS RAID systems have been fielded in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. Field commanders have stated that RAID is a significant force multiplier for those units assigned the responsibility of providing force protection and security for coalition forces.

Mission

The JLENS RAID Product Office rapidly develops, tests, fields, and manages a low-cost, elevated sensor system that improves coalition force protection and enhances tactical decision-making.

Technology

The RAID systems are developed using commercially available, off-the-shelf technology. The RAID system is air-transportable, highly mobile, and consists of a multi-sensor suite (EO day camera, IR night camera, LRF, and spotter scope), a ground station, and a platform. The sensor suite is controlled from the ground station, utilizing fiber-optic or RF connection to the sensor. At the ground station, the imagery is displayed, overlaid on digital maps, recorded, and/or transmitted to other facilities utilizing a variety of communication links. The platform elevates the RAID sensor and is tailored to users' specific operational requirements; the RAID platform options include towers, masts, aerostats, and airships.

Emplaced 15-meter Aerostat with Payload

Emplaced 117-foot Tower with Payload

Airship

For more information, please contact:

U.S. Army PEO Missiles and Space
JLENS Product Office
Attention: SFAE-MSLS-CMDS-JLN
P.O. Box 1500
Huntsville, AL 35807-3801
(256) 313-3700

Visit the PEO MS website:
http://www.msl.army.mil

JLENS - RAID

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- Twenty-Two Systems Fielded in Support of OIF/OEF
- Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom
- Provides Coalition Force Protection
- Enhances Tactical Decision-Making
- Is a Significant Force Multiplier

United States Army Program Executive Office

MISSILES AND SPACE